

## Join the Ranks of Citizen Forester!



If you are interested in learning more about trees and are willing to volunteer to help care for and maintain the public trees in your town, then Citizen Forester is for you!

The Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council (CTUFC) is now accepting applications for the Citizen Forester 2009 training class. Participants will receive 36 combined hours of classroom instruction and “hands-on” field training. Training sessions will be held at various locations in Fort Worth from 9 am to 4pm on the following six Wednesdays: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 15, April 29 and May 27.

The Citizen Forester program presents a wonderful opportunity for individuals to become skilled at planting, pruning, and maintaining trees in an urban environment. It also provides interested persons with the chance to get involved with local city and county agencies and help their community take care of its public trees.

Topics include identification of recommended native and adapted trees, proper hands-on planting and pruning experience, benefits of trees, tree risk assessment, conducting tree inventories, common insect and disease pests of trees, and other relevant urban forestry topics.

With the skills acquired through the program and through the guidance of parks and recreation professionals, Citizen Foresters are making lasting contributions to community forests throughout North Texas. In exchange for their training, Citizen Forester volunteers provide a minimum of 25 hours of community service to their local town, city or county towards projects that involve trees on public property. Since the program’s inception in 2006, Citizen Foresters have proven to be an invaluable resource to municipalities striving to stay abreast of public tree management. In a relatively short time period, these dedicated volunteers have provided thousands of volunteer hours towards:

- Planting trees
- Conducting tree inventories of local parks
- Maintaining the tree inventory of a municipal tree farm which is used for neighborhood tree planting programs
- Pruning trees growing in street medians and along major commercial corridors managed by park and recreation professionals
- Staffing educational outreach and tree give-away events
- Completing urban forestry filing and data entry projects
- Inspecting parade routes for low limbs overhanging the street.

In partnership with CTUFC, the City of Fort Worth organizes and hosts the training program. Cross Timbers members throughout the Metroplex assist in supervising field training exercises and serving as guest speakers. The training class is limited to 25 participants, with each county in the 17-county Cross Timbers region guaranteed one slot. There is \$50 registration fee upon acceptance into the program to help pay for related program expenses. Limited scholarships are available. Participants are also responsible for out-of-pocket travel and lunch expenses. The deadline to apply for the program is Monday, January 12, 2009. The application, training schedule and an informational brochure are available at [www.ctufc.org](http://www.ctufc.org). For more information, call 817-871-5739.

Serving 17 counties in North Texas, the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council (CTUFC) is a non-profit organization charged with the mission to “promote programs in the region to increase interest in urban and community forestry.” The CTUFC, [www.ctufc.org](http://www.ctufc.org), began the Citizen Forester program in 2006 with the help of a matching partnership grant from the Texas Forest Service. The Citizen Forester program is open to any interested adult within this 17 county region in North Texas, including Tarrant, Denton, Cooke, Montague, Clay, Wichita, Archer, Young, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Erath, Somervell, Hood, Parker, Jack, Wise and Johnson counties.

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